



King County
Office of Economic and Financial Analysis
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 Seattle, WA 98104
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 25, 2025

TO: King County Forecast Council

FROM: Lizbeth Martin-Mahar, Laurie Elofson, Tony Cacallori

RE: King County Revenue through October 2025

Actuals Compared to Budget Forecast - King County Revenue (through October 2025 unless noted)¹

Revenue	YTD Forecast (2025 Budget)	YTD Actual	Actual - Forecast	Difference (percentage)
Current Expense Levy*	\$ 387,110,000	\$ 395,233,296	\$ 8,123,296	2.1%
UAL/Roads Levy^	\$ 93,320,000	\$ 95,095,251	\$ 1,775,251	1.9%
Parks Levy^	\$ 155,350,000	\$ 156,561,446	\$ 1,211,446	0.8%
Veterans, Seniors, & HS Levy (1143)^	\$ 78,910,000	\$ 80,286,530	\$ 1,376,530	1.7%
Conservation Futures Levy (3151)^	\$ 49,290,000	\$ 49,455,300	\$ 165,300	0.3%
EMS Levy^	\$ 109,970,000	\$ 116,227,559	\$ 6,257,559	5.7%
Transit Levy^	\$ 31,210,000	\$ 31,512,503	\$ 302,503	1.0%
Marine Levy^	\$ 6,560,000	\$ 6,625,131	\$ 65,131	1.0%
Best Starts for Kids Levy^	\$ 141,260,000	\$ 142,404,910	\$ 1,144,910	0.8%
Crisis Care Centers Levy^	\$ 111,670,000	\$ 112,519,586	\$ 849,586	0.8%
County Hospital Levy^	\$ 80,830,000	\$ 79,532,633	\$ (1,297,367)	-1.6%
P&I on Delinquent Property Taxes	\$ 20,820,000	\$ 18,486,445	\$ (2,333,555)	-11.2%
Sales Tax - Local Option (9/25)	\$ 130,820,000	\$ 133,305,986	\$ 2,485,986	1.9%
Sales Tax-Criminal Justice (9/25)	\$ 13,940,000	\$ 13,750,164	\$ (189,836)	-1.4%
Sales Tax-MIDD (9/25)	\$ 68,930,000	\$ 68,713,512	\$ (216,488)	-0.3%
Sales Tax - Transit (9/25)	\$ 630,710,000	\$ 628,473,219	\$ (2,236,781)	-0.4%
Sales Tax - Health Through Housing (9/25)	\$ 52,610,000	\$ 53,976,923	\$ 1,366,923	2.6%
Sales Tax - Cultural Access Program (9/25)	\$ 69,810,000	\$ 69,987,120	\$ 177,120	0.3%
Marijuana Excise Tax	\$ 2,230,000	\$ 2,056,722	\$ (173,278)	-7.8%
MV Fuel Tax-Roads+	\$ 9,830,000	\$ 8,993,534	\$ (836,466)	-8.5%
E-911 Excise Tax (9/25)	\$ 19,370,000	\$ 19,812,516	\$ 442,516	2.3%
Hotel/Motel Tax (9/25)	\$ 32,610,000	\$ 31,416,792	\$ (1,193,208)	-3.7%
Lodging Tax (HB 2015) (8/25) **	\$ 4,190,000	\$ 4,751,411	\$ 561,411	13.4%
Rental Car Tax (9/25)	\$ 4,420,000	\$ 4,062,354	\$ (357,646)	-8.1%
REET 1 Revenue	\$ 8,120,000	\$ 7,214,302	\$ (905,698)	-11.2%
Wastewater Revenues+	\$ 457,060,000	\$ 455,247,283	\$ (1,812,717)	-0.4%
Solid Waste Net Disposal Charges+	\$ 125,630,000	\$ 130,330,536	\$ 4,700,536	3.7%
Transit Fare+	\$ 65,820,000	\$ 60,730,607	\$ (5,089,393)	-7.7%

¹ 2025 actual values are preliminary and subject to adjustment.

* 2025 budget is 97.5% of levy ordinance

^ 2025 budget is 99% of levy ordinance

+ 2025 budget is from Agency budget documents.

** September 2025 data was not yet available

All other taxes' 2025 budget based on OEFA March 2025 Forecast

2025 Actuals Compared to Budget Forecasts

Through the end of October 2025, property tax revenues combined for all levies are up from the forecast by \$20 million or 1.6 percent. This includes both the first and second half of the property tax collections for 2025. The year-to-date (yoy) differences in the actuals versus the March forecast for individual levies were positive for all levies except for the county hospital levy which was negative by \$1.3 million, -1.6 percent. The rest of the levies ranged between 5.7 and 0.3 percent with the EMS levy being above the forecast and Conservation Futures levy being up the least amount. The first ten months of collections of penalties and interest on delinquent property taxes came in -\$2.3 million or 11.2 percent below forecast.

Total taxable sales, categorized by industry sectors, were up in the first nine months of 2025 by 2 percent yoy. Year-to-date, most of the industry sectors were up from last year: information up 18.5 percent, manufacturing up 0.8 percent, finance and insurance up 10.3 percent, wholesale trade up 5.5 percent, retail trade up 1.9 percent, real estate, rental and leasing up 6.5 percent, professional, scientific, and technical services up 5.8 percent, management of companies up 21 percent, health care and social assistance up 5.8 percent, arts, entertainment, and recreation services up 8.7 percent, accommodations and food services up 2.2 percent, administrative and support and warehousing up 1.5 percent and public administration up 18 percent over last year. For the first nine months of 2025, some big sectors in the local economy were down from last year like construction sales down 3.1 percent, transportation and warehousing down 6.7 percent, educational services down 10.6 percent, other services except public administration down 0.3 percent.

An appendix to this memo provides King County taxable retail sales by industry for the most recent month September 2025 compared to September 2024. This table indicates that in the month of September, total taxable sales were up year-over-year by 2.7 percent, which was a strong monthly growth rate this year. Most industry sectors are up, with only 3 sectors being down in September compared to last year. The information sector was down yoy by a notable 15.8 percent due to unusually high receipts during the same month of the prior year. Professional, scientific and technical services were down slightly by -0.2 percent and public administration was down -6.9 percent. Notable industries that grew in September 2025, include the construction sector seeing positive gains this month at 5.3 percent, management, education and health services up 7.5 percent, arts, entertainment and recreation up 7.7 percent, accommodation & food service up 1.3 percent, wholesale trade was up 8.7 percent, retail trade was up 3 percent, finance and insurance up 16.3 percent, real estate, rental and leasing up 8.7 percent, and other services up 2.5 percent.

The first nine months of 2025 saw sales taxes up from the March forecast by \$1.4 million, 0.14 percent, for all six sales tax levies. Half of the sales tax levies were up, and half were down. Sales tax distributions for the local option levy were up \$2.4 million, 1.9 percent, from the March forecast. This local sales tax levy recently benefited from the fact that the unincorporated area of King County performed better in taxable sales than countywide taxable sales. The Health Through Housing sales tax levy was up \$1.4 million or 2.6 percent and Cultural Access Program was up a little at 0.3 percent. The transit levy was down the most at \$2.24 million, 0.4 percent, below the March forecast.

Most other revenue streams deviated from the forecast by more than one percent except for wastewater revenues which were down \$1.8 million or -0.4 percent. Revenue streams which were down included the marijuana tax down 7.8 percent, MV fuel tax for roads down 8.5 percent, hotel/motel taxes down 3.7 percent, rental car tax down 8.1 percent, real estate excise taxes down 11.2 percent, and transit fares down 7.7 percent. A few revenue streams were above the March forecast including E-911 excise tax at 2.3 percent above, lodging tax up 13.4 percent, and solid waste disposal charges up 3.7 percent compared to the last forecast.

2025 Actuals Compared to OEFA July Forecasts

On July 21, 2025, the King County Forecast Council adopted a new July 2025 revenue forecast. This forecast modified the March 2025 forecast used for setting the 2025 budget. One important element of revision in the July 2025 revenue forecast was the forecast for King County taxable sales as it was reduced by more than 1 percent from the March forecast. This resulted in a lower forecast for sales tax levies. Projections of property tax levies for 2025 were not impacted by this July forecast. Penalties and interest on delinquent property taxes had been lowered since the March forecast and actuals are still coming in \$0.72 million or 3.8 percent below the July forecast.

Below is a table comparing the monthly 2025 OEFA July forecasts to the monthly actuals received so far in 2025 for those OEFA forecasts that were impacted by the July revisions to the March forecast.

Since the July forecast for taxable sales was revised downward by more than 1% in 2025 from the March forecast, the difference in actual sales tax levies cumulatively for the first nine months is now up \$5.7 million, 0.43 percent, from the July forecast.

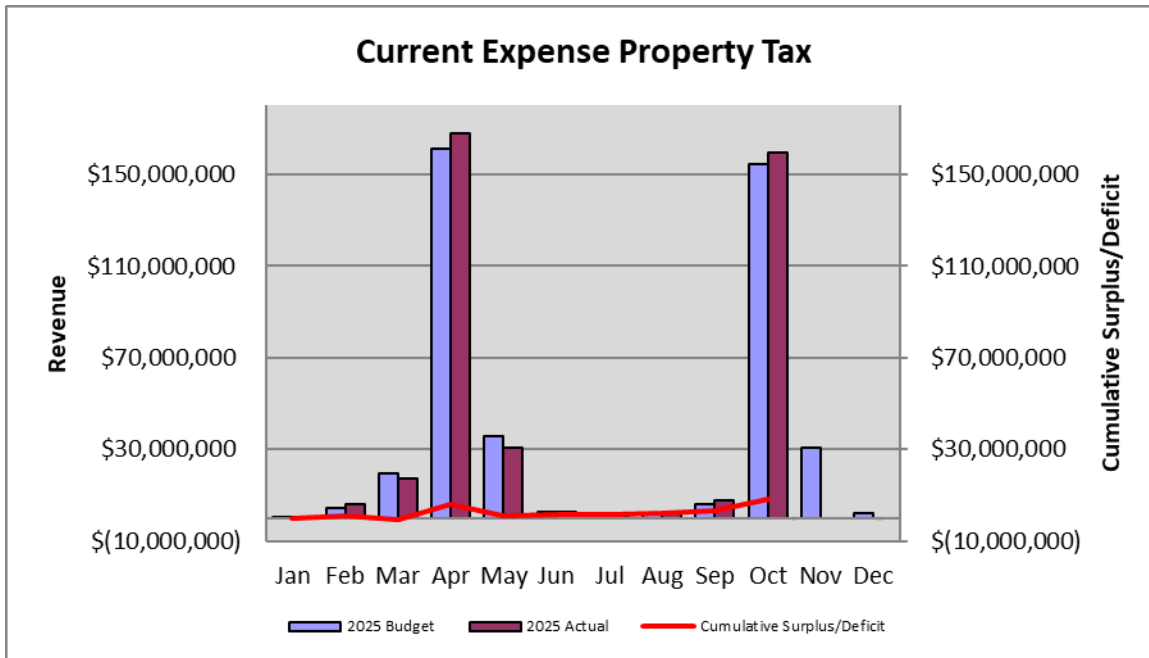
Since the July forecast, the marijuana, hotel, rental car and REET 1 forecasts were each revised downward from the March forecast. Now for the first nine months of 2025 actuals compared to the latest July forecast are up for most revenue sources except E-911 excise tax and REET taxes. The marijuana excise tax is up by \$46,722, 2.3 percent, hotel/motel taxes are up \$66,792 or 0.2 percent, the lodging tax is up by \$291,411 or 6.5 percent and rental car tax is also up \$232,354 or 6.1 percent. The real estate excise tax is still down from the last forecast by \$525,698 or 6.8 percent and E-911 tax is down \$87,484 or -0.4 percent compared to the new July forecast.

Actuals Compared to OEFA July Forecast - King County Revenue (through October 2025 unless noted)

Revenue	YTD Forecast (July Forecast)	YTD Actual	Actual - Forecast	Difference (percentage)
P&I on Delinquent Property Taxes	\$ 19,210,000	\$ 18,486,445	\$ (723,555)	-3.8%
Sales Tax - Local Option (9/25)	\$ 131,200,000	\$ 133,305,986	\$ 2,105,986	1.6%
Sales Tax-Criminal Justice (9/25)	\$ 13,700,000	\$ 13,750,164	\$ 50,164	0.4%
Sales Tax-MIDD (9/25)	\$ 68,490,000	\$ 68,713,512	\$ 223,512	0.3%
Sales Tax - Transit (9/25)	\$ 626,700,000	\$ 628,473,219	\$ 1,773,219	0.3%
Sales Tax - Health Through Housing (9/25)	\$ 53,010,000	\$ 53,976,923	\$ 966,923	1.8%
Sales Tax - Cultural Access Program (9/25)	\$ 69,370,000	\$ 69,987,120	\$ 617,120	0.9%
Marijuana Excise Tax	\$ 2,010,000	\$ 2,056,722	\$ 46,722	2.3%
E-911 Excise Tax (9/25)	\$ 19,900,000	\$ 19,812,516	\$ (87,484)	-0.4%
Hotel/Motel Tax (9/25)	\$ 31,350,000	\$ 31,416,792	\$ 66,792	0.2%
Lodging Tax (HB 2015) (8/25) **	\$ 4,460,000	\$ 4,751,411	\$ 291,411	6.5%
Rental Car Tax (9/25)	\$ 3,830,000	\$ 4,062,354	\$ 232,354	6.1%
REET 1 Revenue	\$ 7,740,000	\$ 7,214,302	\$ (525,698)	-6.8%

** September 2025 data was not yet available

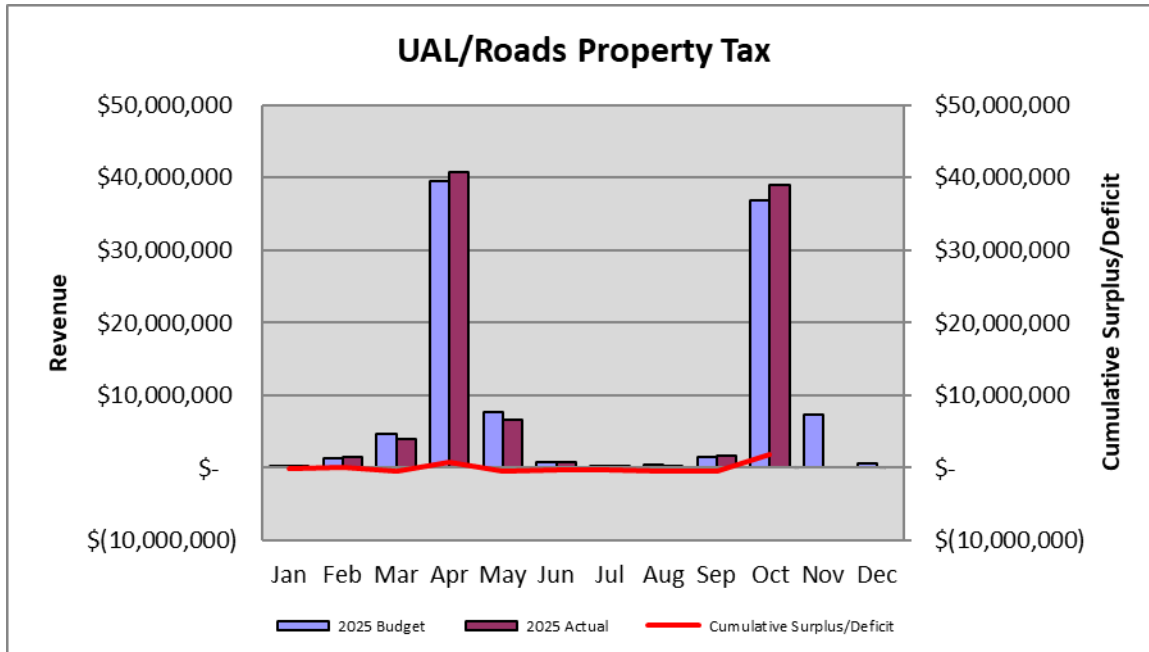
The graphs on the following pages indicate revenues from specific funds, including comparisons between monthly revenues as forecasted in March, shown by the blue bars, actual monthly revenues, indicated by the burgundy bars and the red line showing the cumulative difference between March forecasts and actuals. The table below the graphs show the single month of October or September's estimated March forecast, actual and difference for each taxing district's levy.



Data Source: King County EBS Acct 31111 & 31112

Current Expense Taxes Comparison (October 2025)

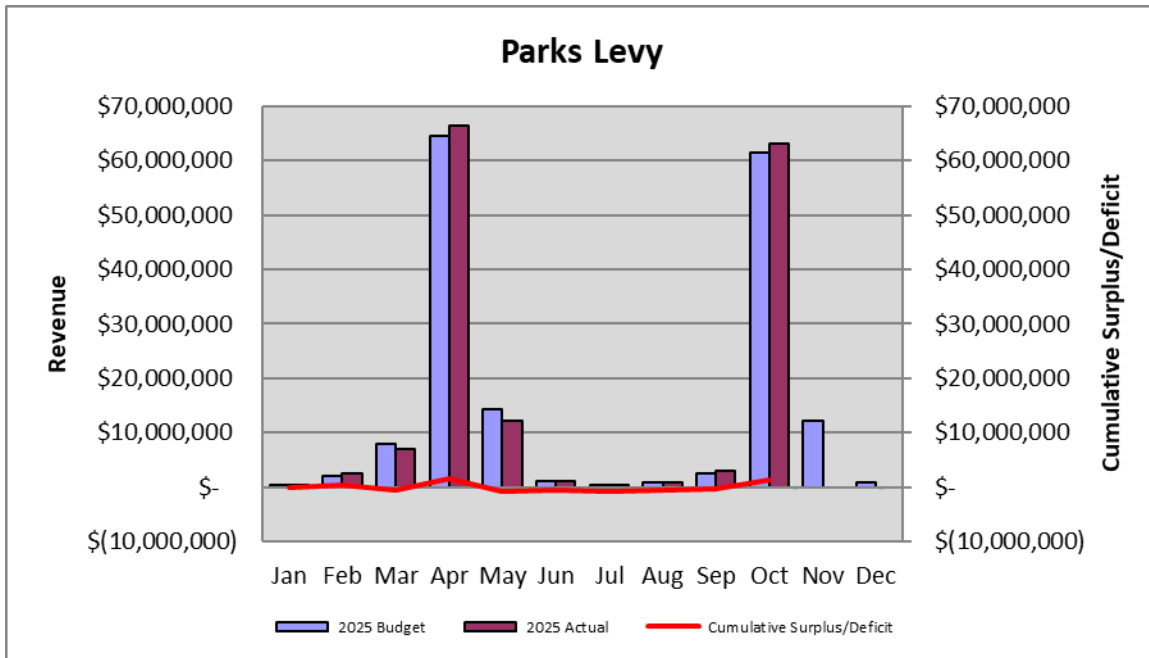
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 154,338,572	\$ 159,417,639	\$ 5,079,067	3.3%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct. 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

UAL/Roads Property Taxes Comparison (October 2025)

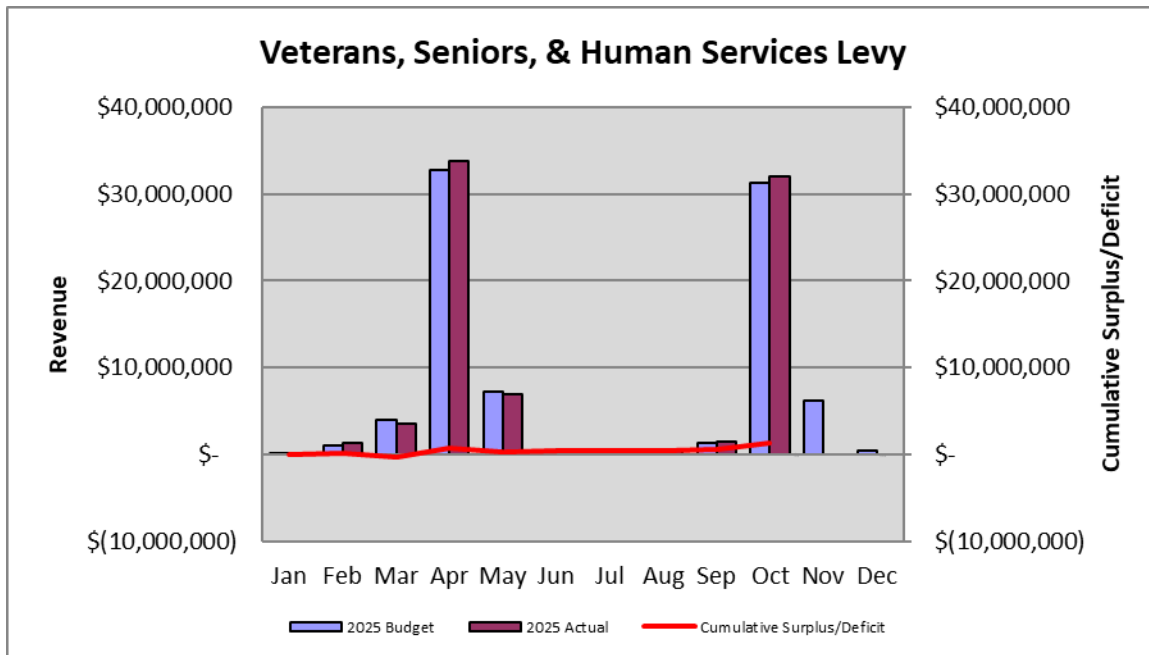
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 36,837,535	\$ 38,984,535	\$ 2,147,444	5.8%



Data: King County EBS 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

Parks Property Taxes Comparison (October 2025)

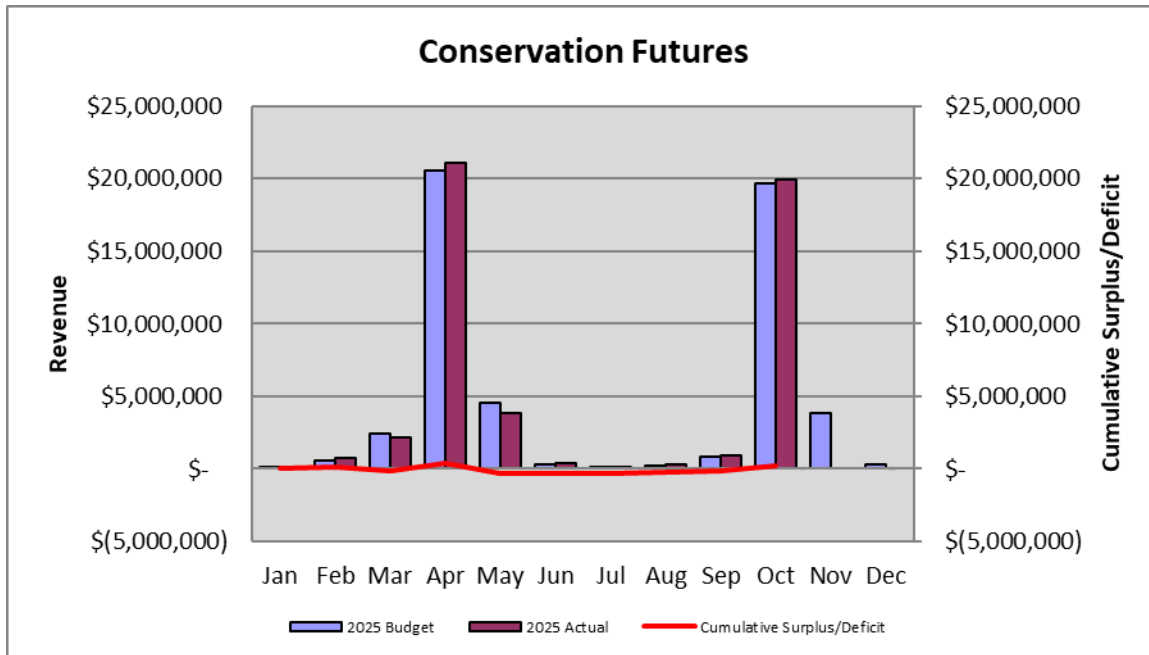
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 61,539,561	\$ 62,992,052	\$ 1,452,491	2.4%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 1143, Acct. 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

VSHSL Property Taxes Comparison (October 2025)

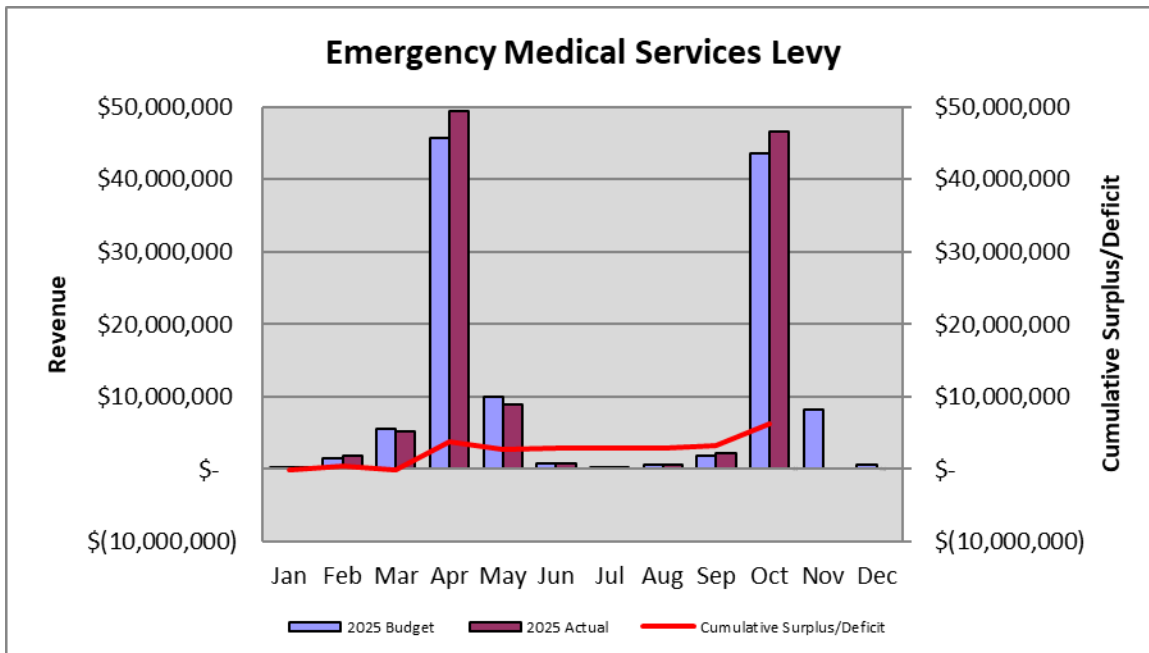
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 31,259,348	\$ 31,993,204	\$ 733,856	2.3%



Data Source: King County EBS, Acct. 31117

Conservation Futures Property Taxes Comparison (October 2025)

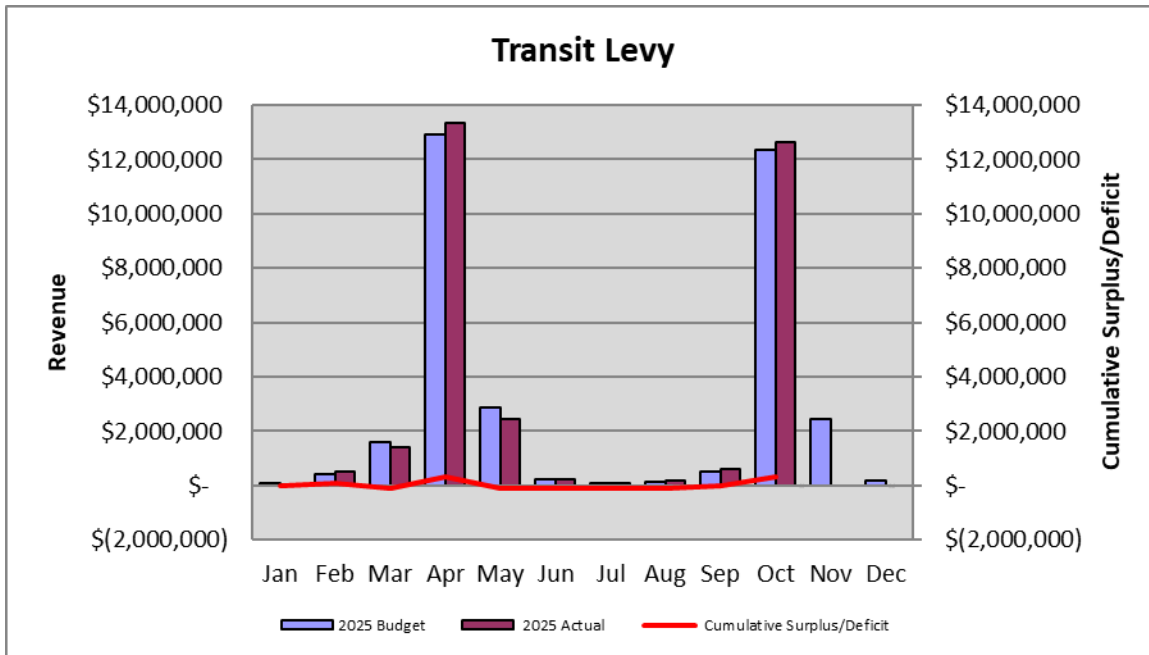
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 19,662,972	\$ 19,973,930	\$ 310,957	1.6%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct. 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

EMS Property Taxes Comparison (October 2025)

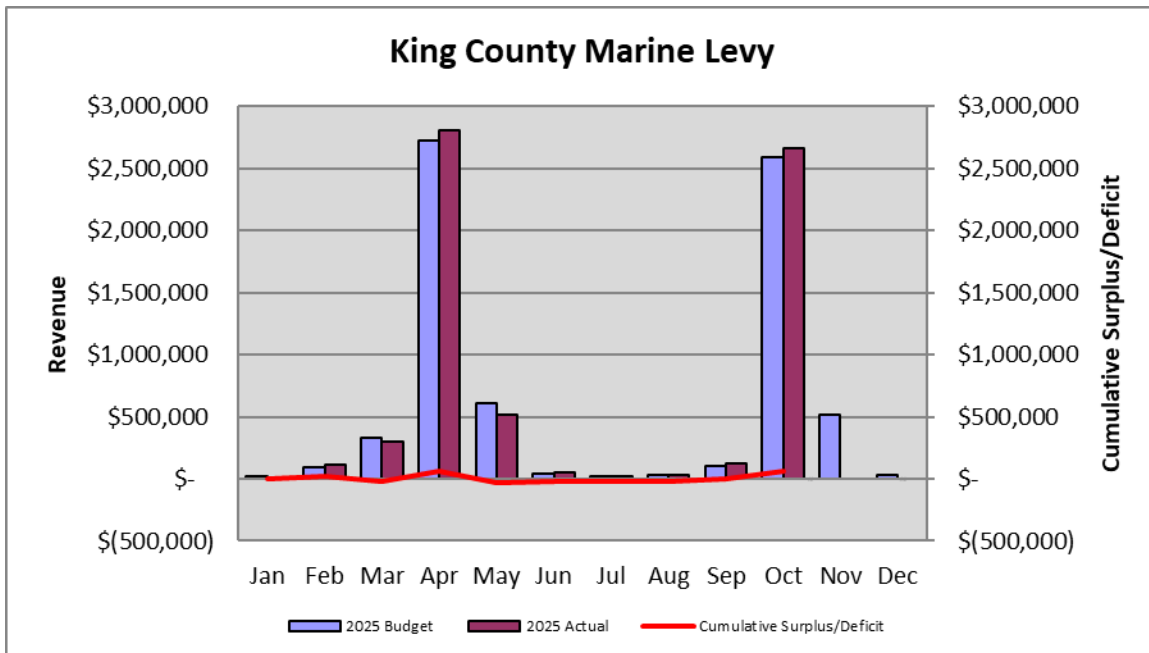
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 43,649,245	\$ 46,659,062	\$ 3,009,817	6.9%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct. 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

Transit Property Taxes Comparison (October 2025)

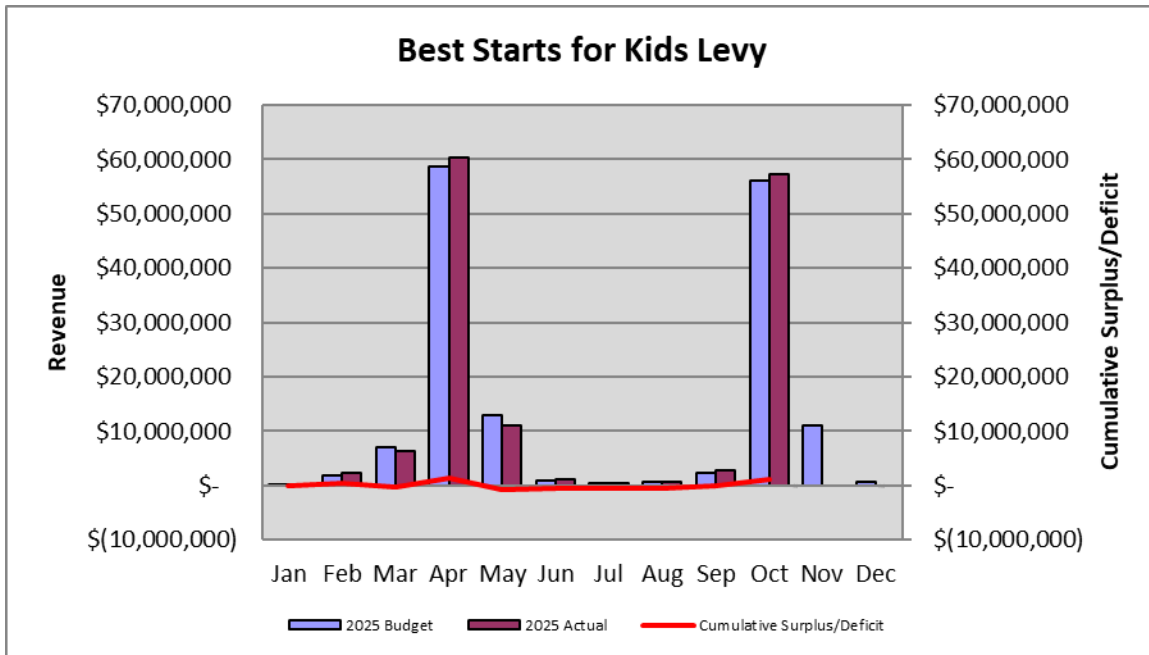
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 12,331,934	\$ 12,644,841	\$ 312,907	2.5%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 3641, Accts 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

King County Marine Property Taxes Comparison (October 2025)

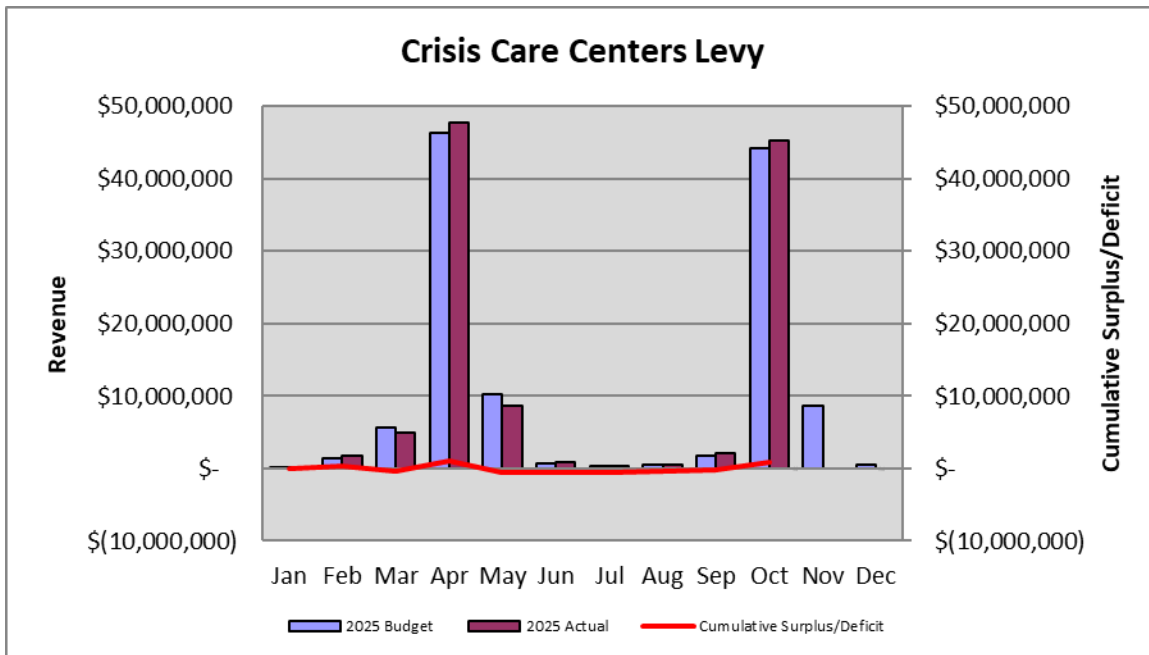
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,593,418	\$ 2,658,531	\$ 65,113	2.5%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 1480, Accts 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

Best Starts for Kids Property Taxes Comparison (October 2025)

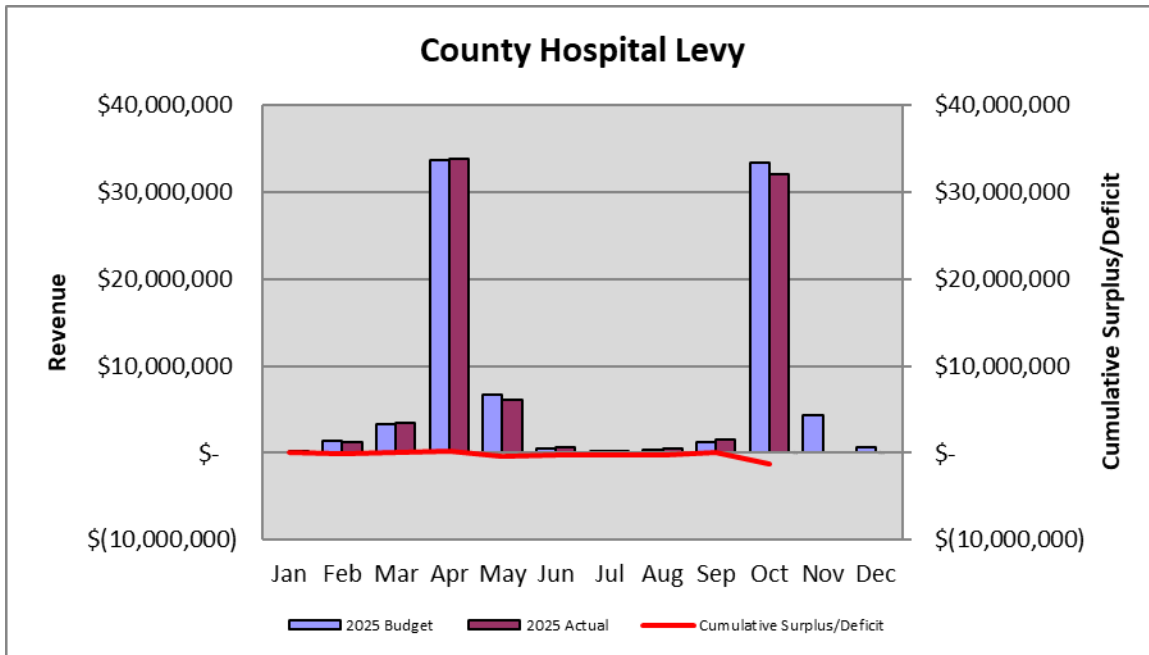
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 56,004,442	\$ 57,288,179	\$ 1,283,738	2.3%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 1480, Accts 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

Crisis Care Centers Property Taxes Comparison (October 2025)

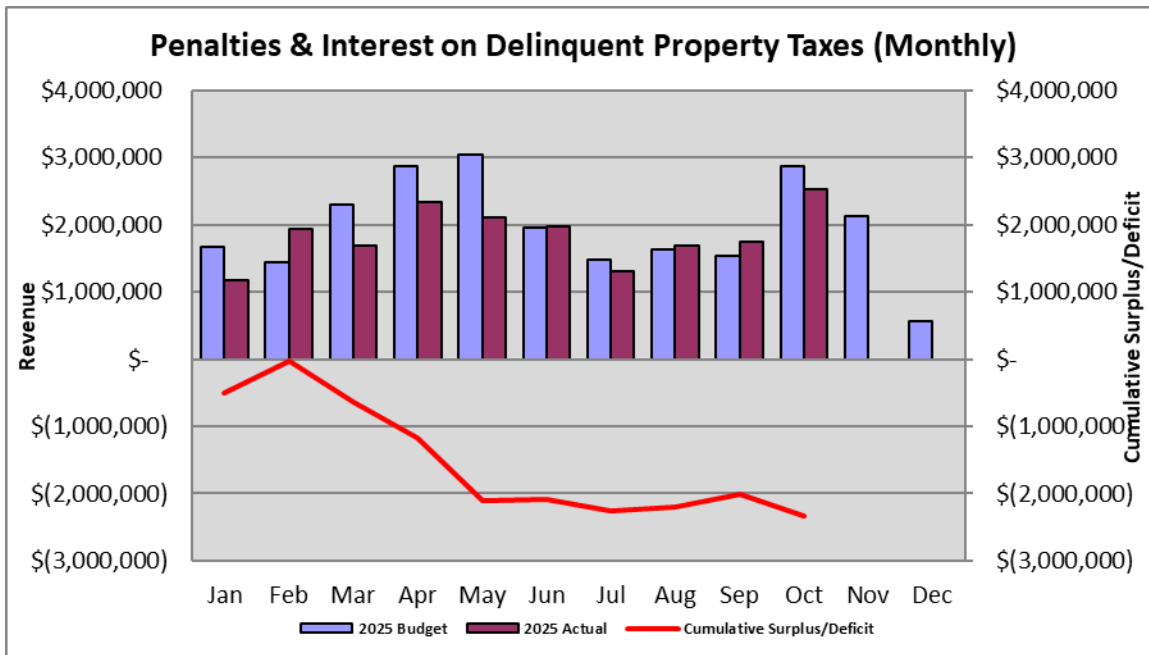
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 44,273,070	\$ 45,264,818	\$ 991,748	2.2%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 1700, Accts 31111, 31112, 31113, 31114, & 31119

County Hospital Property Taxes Comparison (October 2025)

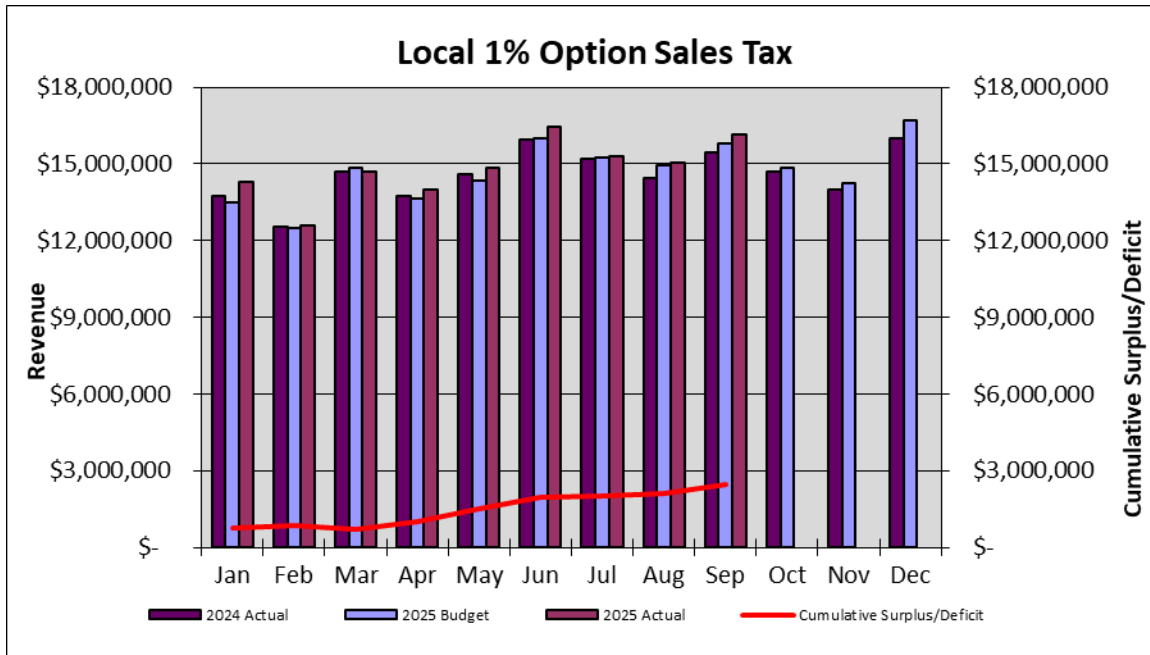
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 33,418,128	\$ 32,079,899	\$ (1,338,229)	-4.0%



Data Source: King County EBS Fund 0010, Acct 31911

Penalties and Interest on Delinquent Property Taxes Comparison (October 2025)

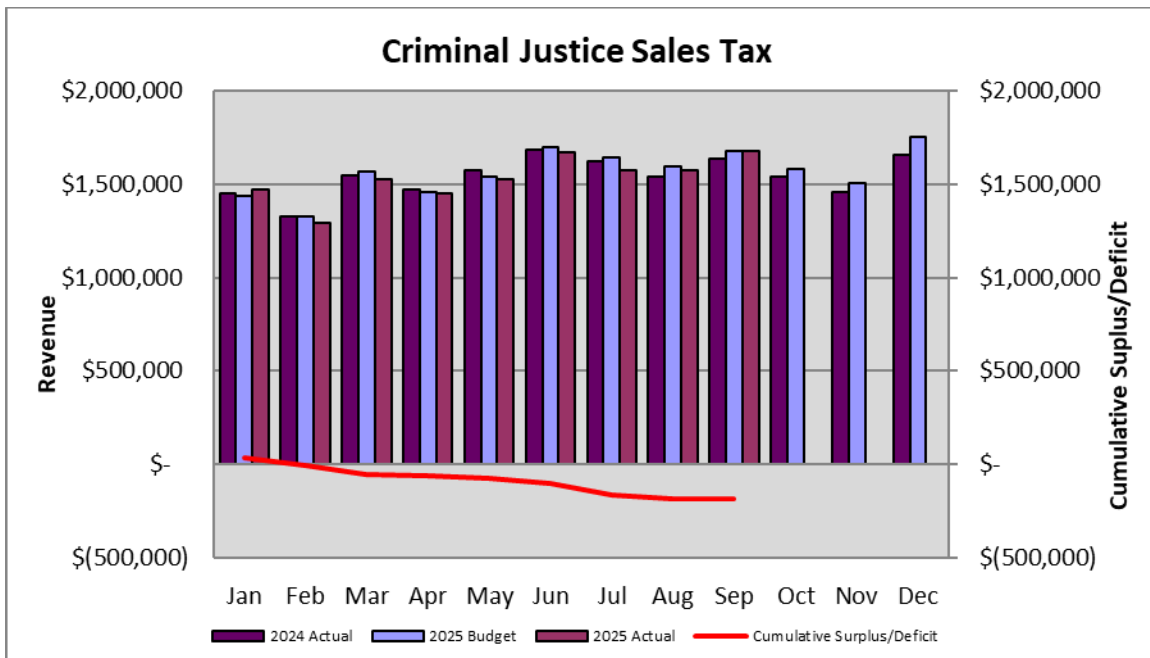
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,863,952	\$ 2,535,411	\$ (328,541)	-11.5%



Data Source: Washington State DOR through September

Local Option Sales Tax Comparison (September 2025)

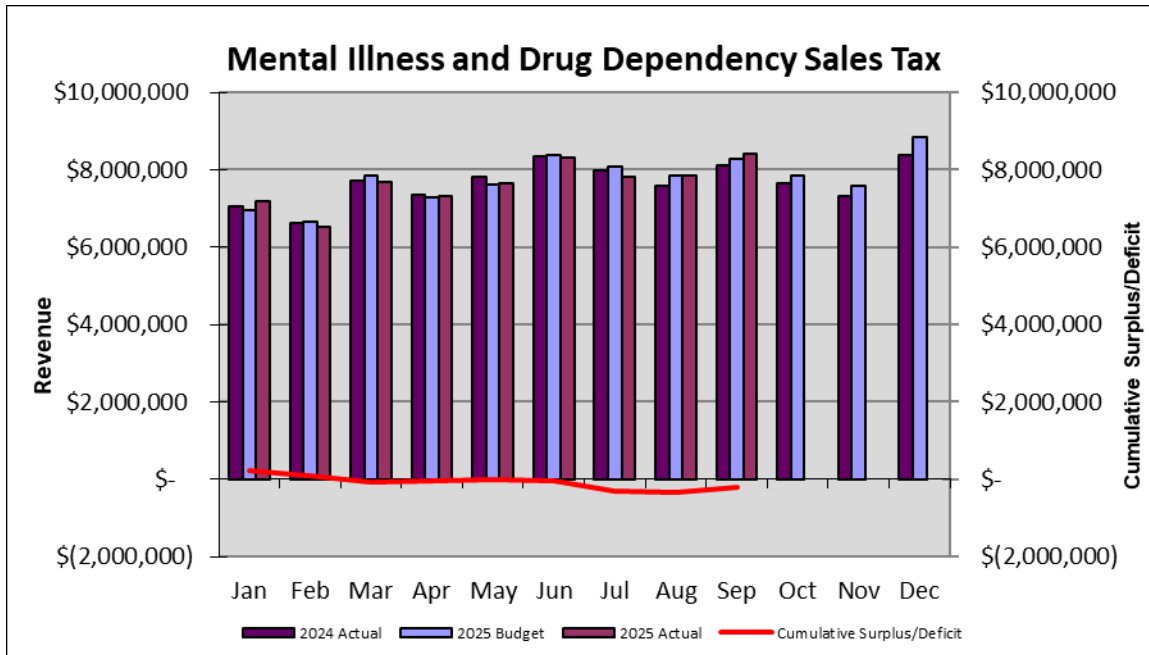
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 15,808,020	\$ 16,164,348	\$ 356,328	2.3%



Data Source: Washington DOR through September

CJ Sales Tax Comparison (September 2025)

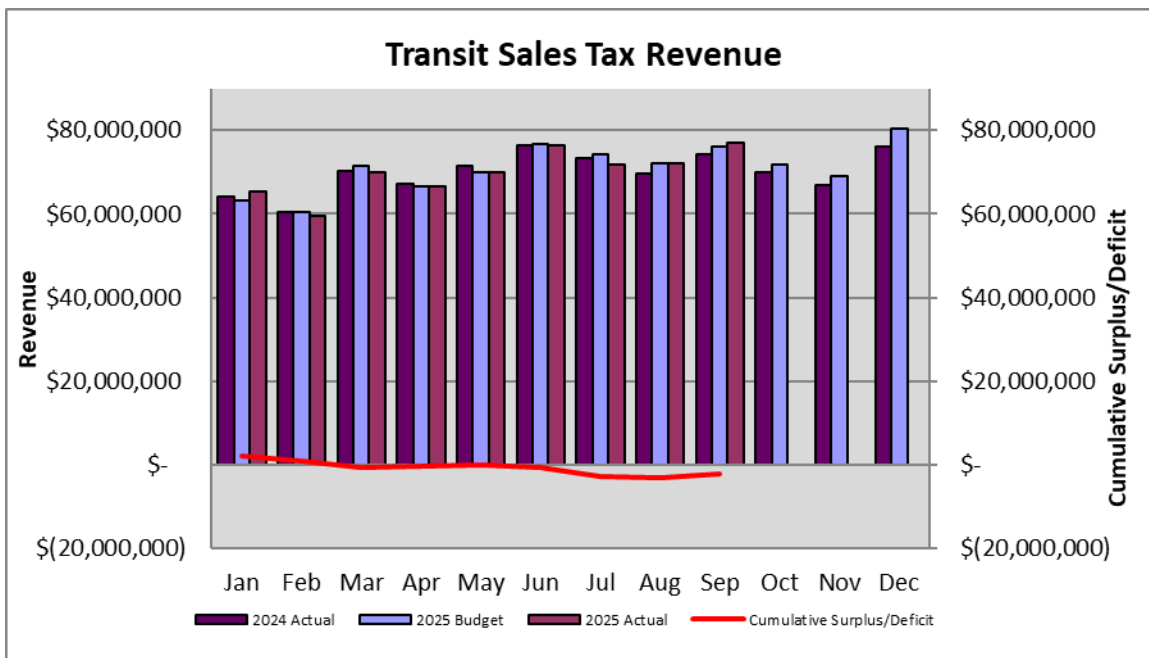
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 1,674,722	\$ 1,678,117	\$ 3,395	0.2%



Data Source: Washington DOR through September

MIDD Sales Tax Comparison (September 2025)

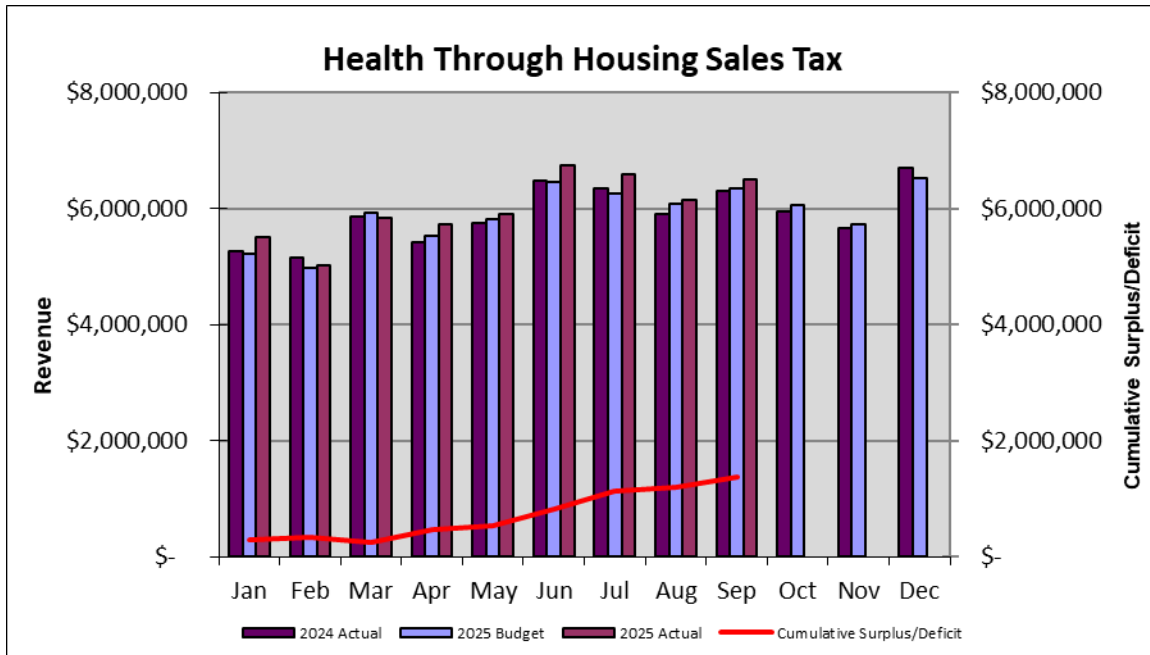
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 8,285,428	\$ 8,409,730	\$ 124,303	1.5%



Data Source: Washington DOR through September

Transit Sales Tax Comparison (September 2025)

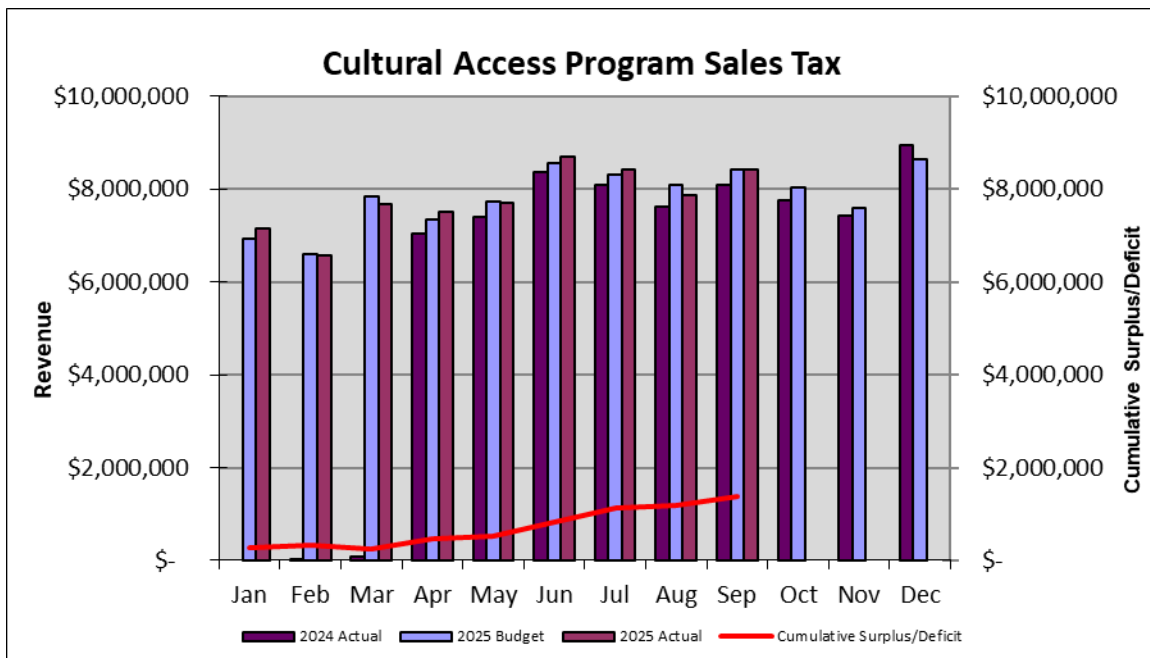
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 75,955,051	\$ 76,935,347	\$ 980,296	1.3%



Data Source: Washington DOR through September

HTH Sales Tax Comparison (September 2025)

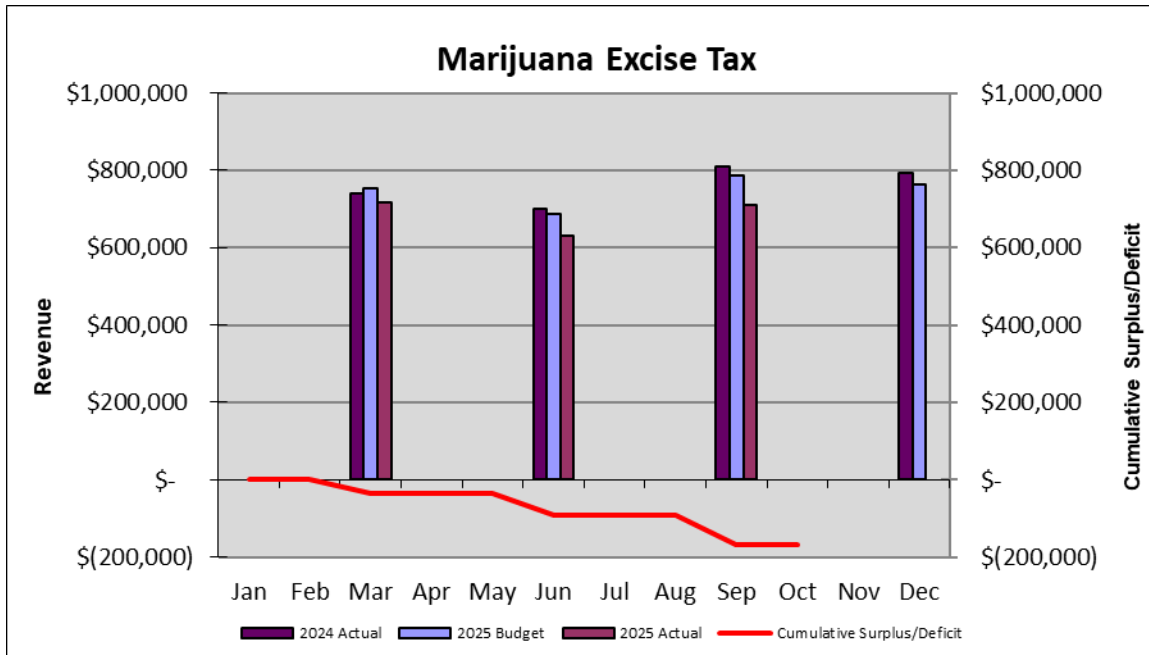
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 6,337,830	\$ 6,510,704	\$ 172,884	2.7%



Data Source: Washington DOR through September

CAP Sales Tax Comparison (September 2025)

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 8,410,593	\$ 8,420,555	\$ 9,962	0.1%

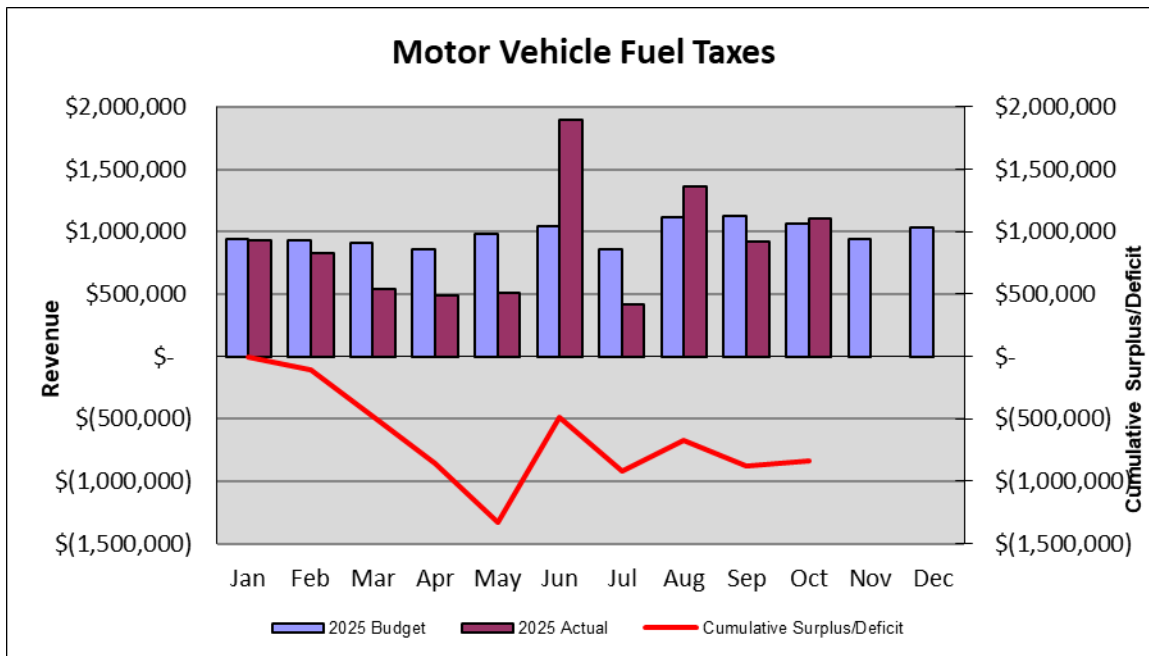


Data Source: King County EBS Fund 0010, Account 33605

Marijuana Excise Tax Comparison (October 2025)

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-%

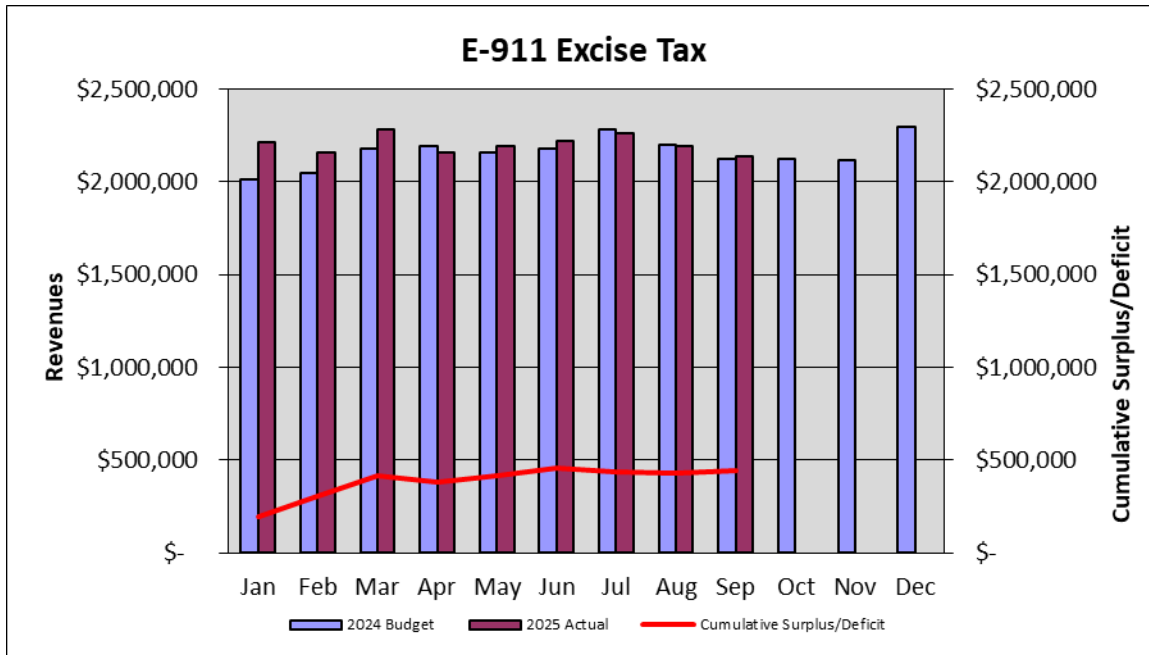
This data is received quarterly in March, June, September and December.



Data Source: King County EBS Acct. 33689

MV Fuel Taxes Comparison (October 2025)

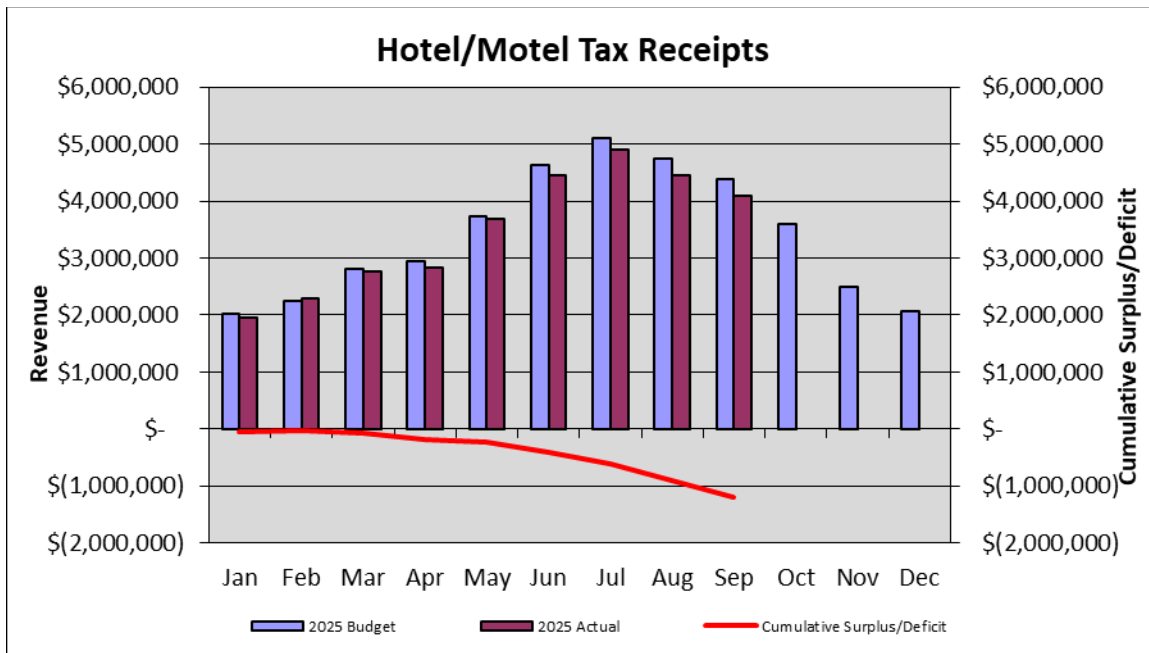
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 1,059,682	\$ 1,100,903	\$ 41,222	3.9%



Data Source: Washington DOR through September

E-911 Excise Tax Comparison (September 2025)

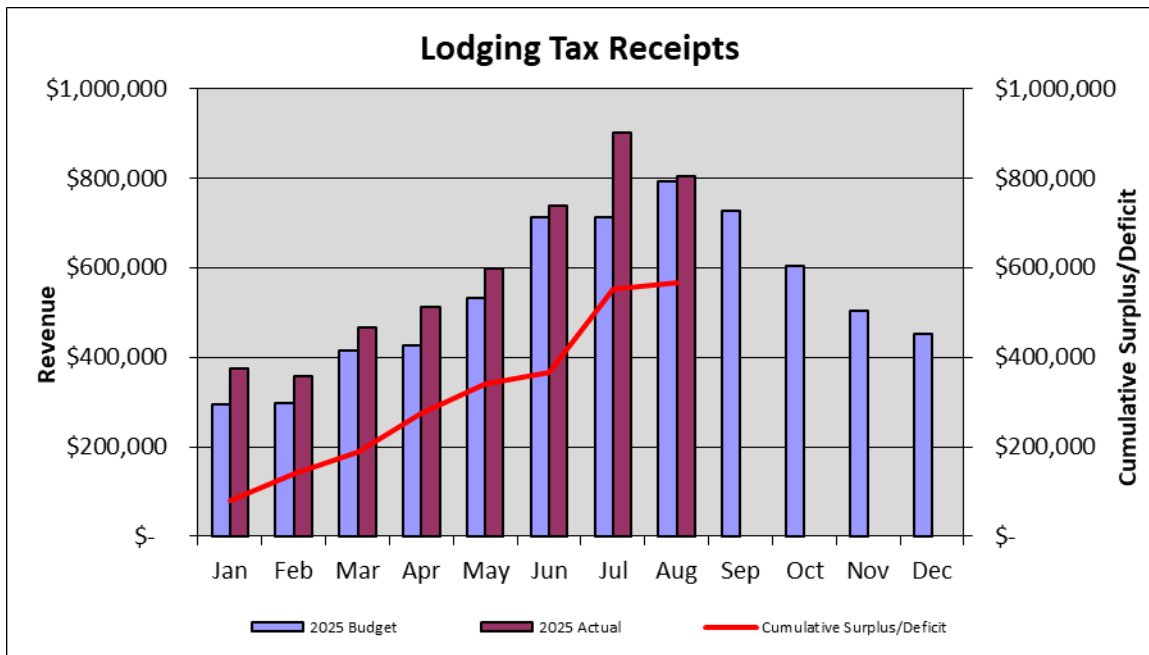
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 2,123,043	\$ 2,136,270	\$ 13,227	0.6%



Data Source: Washington DOR through September

Hotel/Motel Tax Comparison (September 2025)

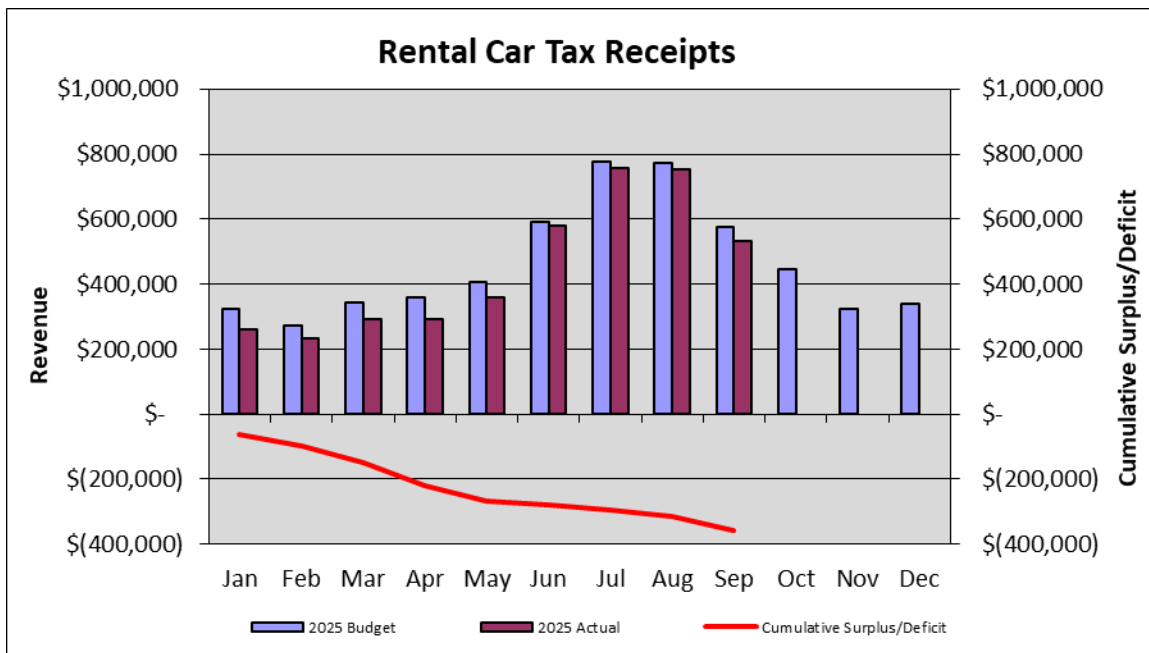
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 4,375,236	\$ 4,082,523	\$ (292,713)	-6.7%



Data Source: Seattle Convention Center through August

Lodging Tax Comparison (August 2025)

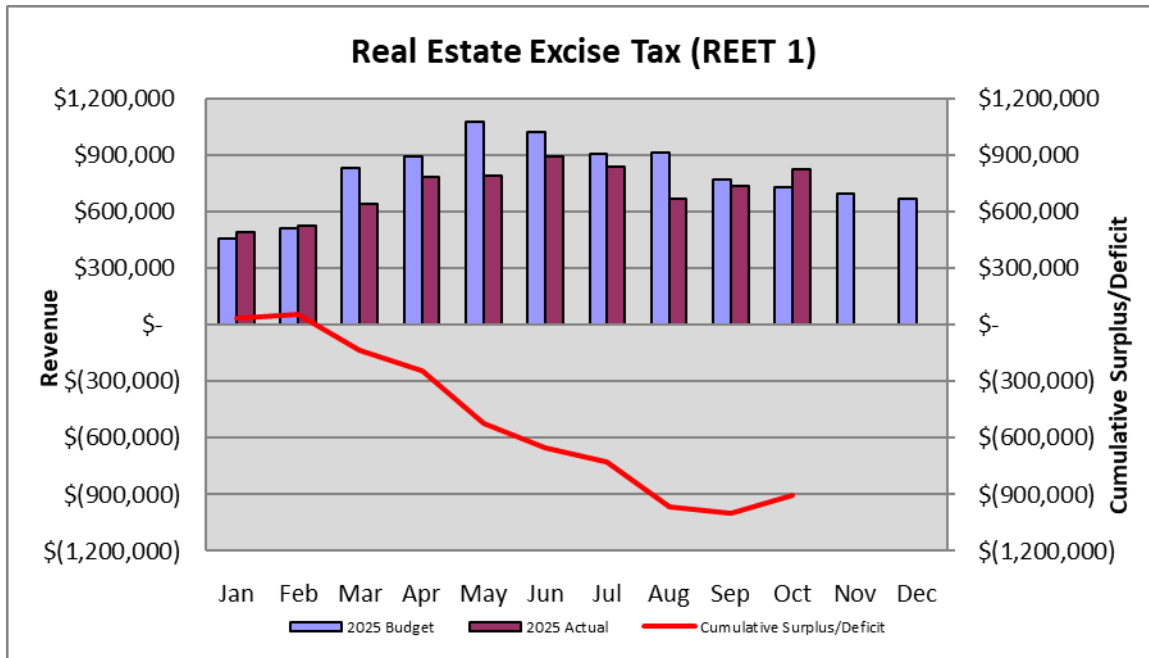
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 791,648	\$ 804,899	\$ 13,251	1.7%



Data Source: Washington DOR through September

Rental Car Tax Comparison (September 2025)

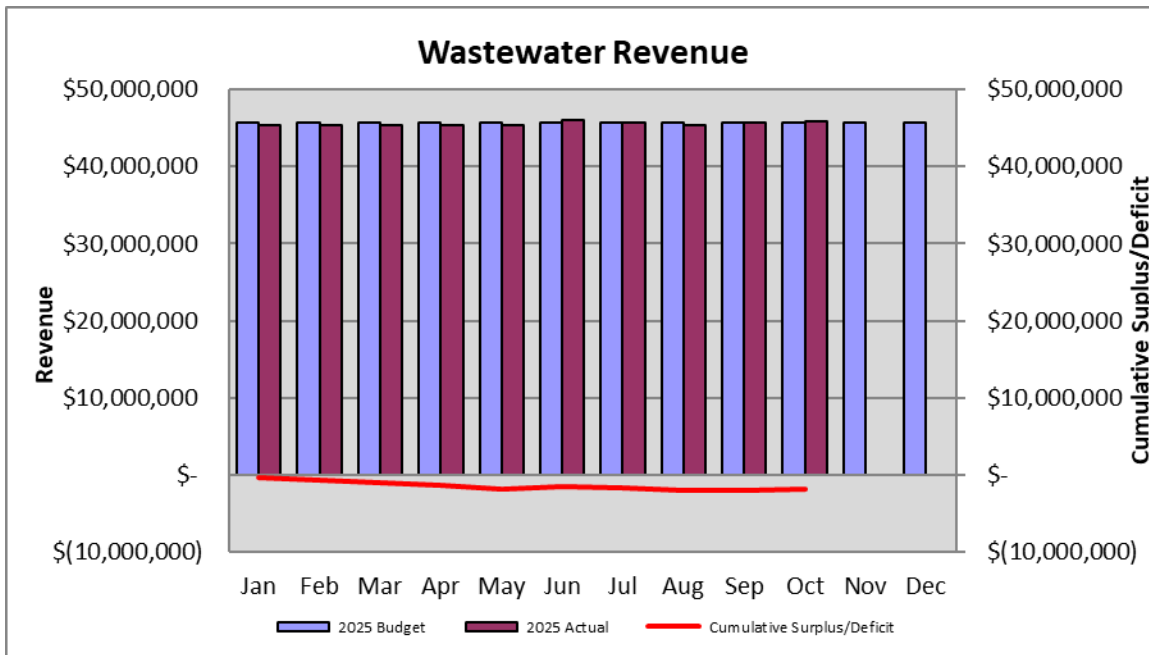
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 577,094	\$ 533,159	\$ (43,935)	-7.6%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct 31734

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET 1) Comparison (October 2025)

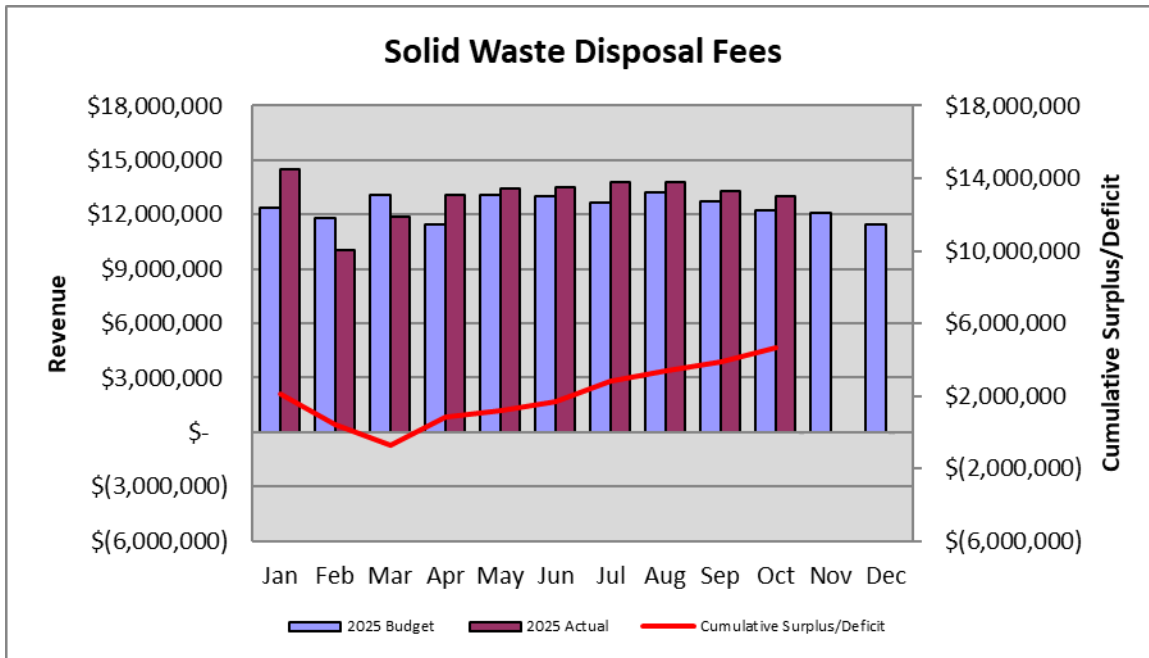
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 732,682	\$ 828,290	\$ 95,608	13.0%



Data Source: King County EBS Acct 44192

Wastewater Revenues Comparison (October 2025)

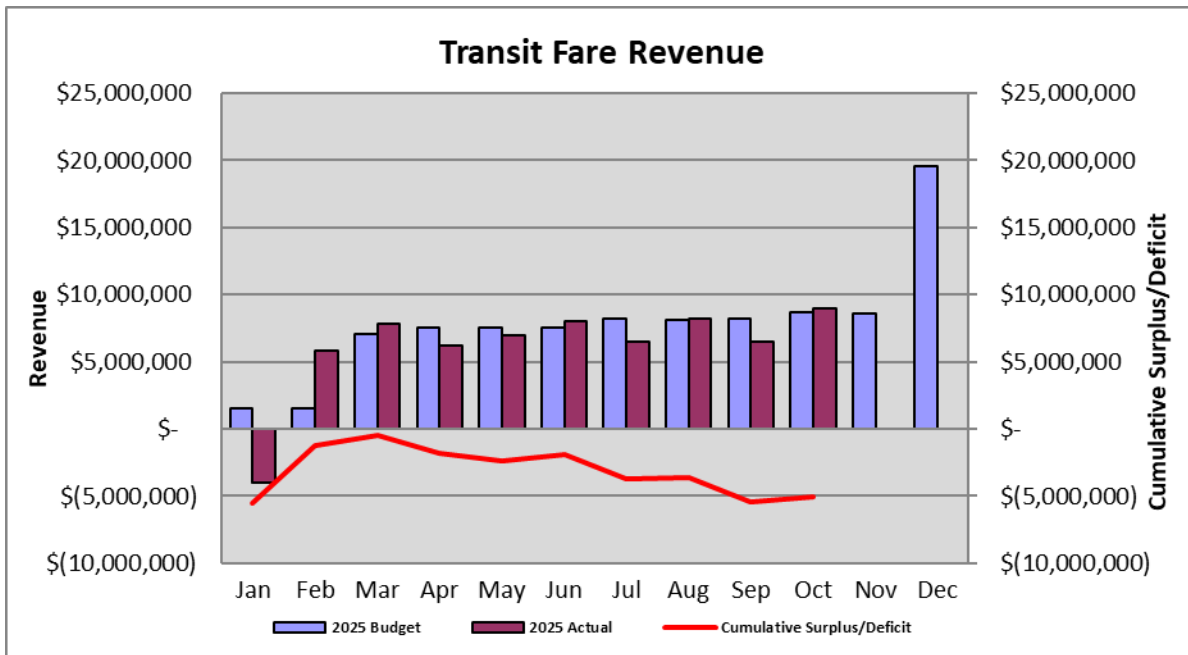
Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 45,706,210	\$ 45,857,470	\$ 151,260	0.3%



Data Source: EBS acct. 34371

Solid Waste Net Disposal Charges Comparison (October 2025)

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 12,219,192	\$ 13,010,637	\$ 791,444	6.5%



Data Source: King County EBS Accts 44233, 44234, 44235, 44237, 44249, 44253, and 44269

Transit Fare Charges Comparison (October 2025)

Forecast	Actual	Actual-Forecast	Difference
\$ 8,638,208	\$ 8,952,839	\$ 314,631	3.6%

Appendix
King County Taxable Retail Sales by Industry
(Current obligations: September 2024 – September 2025)

NAICS Category	2-digit NAICS	Sep-24	Sep-25	Percent change (2024-2025)
Agriculture	11	\$ 1,685,554	\$ 1,751,129	3.9%
Mining	21	687,215	790,191	15.0%
Utilities	22	11,536,402	11,982,446	3.9%
Construction	23	1,637,157,503	1,723,842,096	5.3%
Manufacturing	31-33	168,361,040	179,873,196	6.8%
Wholesale	41-42	434,031,524	471,998,134	8.7%
Retail Trade	44-45	2,539,744,287	2,615,056,951	3.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	121,613,723	123,531,402	1.6%
Information	51	530,773,605	446,733,775	-15.8%
Finance & Insurance	52	56,289,702	65,455,509	16.3%
Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	53	193,821,820	210,717,929	8.7%
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	54	363,829,595	363,267,565	-0.2%
Management, Education and Health Services	55-62	521,230,076	560,572,246	7.5%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	71	88,421,269	95,187,181	7.7%
Accommodations, Food Services	72	895,369,296	907,117,627	1.3%
Other Services	81	165,412,466	169,604,993	2.5%
Public Administration/DOL Monthly	92	75,868,390	70,621,717	-6.9%
Other		-	-	
Total-All Industries		\$ 7,805,833,467	\$ 8,018,104,088	2.7%
NAICS Category	3-digit NAICS	Sep-24	Sep-25	Percentage change (2024-2025)
Construction				
Construction of Buildings	236	\$ 1,030,489,127	\$ 1,046,495,767	1.6%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	237	133,490,941	163,007,280	22.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	238	473,177,435	514,339,049	8.7%
Retail				
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	441	490,217,347	534,189,888	9.0%
Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	444	186,318,258	185,472,047	-0.5%
Food and Beverage Stores	445	151,630,498	156,117,159	3.0%
Furniture, Home Furnishings, Electronics, and Appliance Retailers	449	396,428,127	384,461,107	-3.0%
General Merchandise Retailers	455	292,886,131	297,589,646	1.6%
Health and Personal Care Retailers	456	86,638,264	80,466,247	-7.1%
Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers	457	46,234,441	47,136,254	2.0%
Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Shoe, and Jewelry Retailers	458	211,070,496	226,089,554	7.1%
Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument, Book, & Misc. Retailers	459	678,320,725	703,535,048	3.7%
Wholesale				
Wholesale: Durable Goods	423	353,964,465	387,070,356	9.4%
Wholesale: Nondurable Goods	424	74,799,781	78,813,375	5.4%
Wholesale: Electronic Markets	425	5,267,278	6,114,403	16.1%
Food Service and Accommodations				
Accommodation	721	239,207,322	237,150,656	-0.9%
Food Services and Drinking Places	722	656,161,974	669,966,972	2.1%
Note: NAICS values were updated & consolidated in 2022				
NAICS Category	4-digit NAICS	Sep-24	Sep-25	Percentage change (2024-2025)
Sporting Goods, Hobby, and Musical Instrument Retailers	4591	\$ 96,040,842	\$ 97,959,132	2.0%
Book Retailers and News Dealers	4592	11,190,011	11,842,910	5.8%
Florists	4593	2,969,828	3,135,483	5.6%
Office Supplies, Stationery, and Gift Retailers	4594	25,451,407	25,194,244	-1.0%
Used Merchandise Retailers	4595	12,257,390	13,320,078	8.7%
Other Miscellaneous Retailers	4599	530,411,245	552,083,202	4.1%